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Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 SOE-02 AF-10
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 25 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. MILTON R. BENJAMIN, REPORTING ON SSOD AT U.N., WROTE IN WASHINGTON POST THURSDAY THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, IN "AN UNEXPECTEDLY SHARP ATTACK ON SOVIET UNION," ACCUSED KREMLIN OF ESCALATING NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. BENJAMIN SAID "SOVIET SOURCES LATER EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISMAY AT UNEXPECTEDLY CONFRONTATIONAL TONE OF MONDALE'S SPEECH." SOVIET SOURCES, HE ADDED, SAID MONDALE'S SPEECH "UNDOUBT-

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EDLY WOULD FORCE" GROMYKO TO RESPOND IN KIND WHEN HE ADDRESSES SSOD TOMORROW. "MONDALE'S ADDRESS APPEARED TO INCREASE PROSPECT THAT SOVIET UNION WILL MAKE MAJOR PROPAGANDA ISSUE HERE OUT OF U.S. NEUTRON WEAPON DEVELOPMENT," POST CORRESPONDENT SAID. "U.S. OFFICIALS OFFERED NO PUBLIC EXPLANATION FOR ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO TAKE SOVIET UNION SO SHARPLY TO TASK IN FORUM WHERE BOTH SUPERPOWERS WERE EXPECTED TO COME UNDER CRITICISM FROM MANY THIRD-WORLD NATIONS FOR THEIR FAILURE TO DO MORE TO HALT NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. TONE OF MONDALE'S SPEECH, HOWEVER, COULD EXPLAIN WHY PRESIDENT CARTER DECIDED NOT TO MAKE AMERICAN PRESENTATION IN PERSON."

2. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST DESCRIBED GROMYKO'S TALKS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON THIS WEEK AS "MAJOR ROUND OF DIPLOMACY" IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS, "TAKING PLACE IN SERIOUSLY DETERIORATING AMERICAN POLITICAL CLIMATE FOR ANY NEW COOPERATIVE VENTURE INVOLVING SOVIET UNION." MARDER SAID "SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND IN NEW YORK ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY ARE UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM CAPITOL HILL TO POSTPONE CONCLUSION OF NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATION PACT THIS SUMMER TO AVOID EXPOSING ITS SUPPORTERS TO POLITICAL ATTACK IN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN THIS FALL. THIS COULD MAKE ARMS CONTROL ADVOCATES HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO ANY NEW SEQUENCES OF SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY ACTIONS IN AFRICA." MARDER SAID VANCE, NEVERTHELESS, WAS "AUTHORITATIVELY DESCRIBED LAST NIGHT AS UNCLASSIFIED

DISAGREEING WITH CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS AND DETERMINED TO PUSH VIGOROUSLY TOWARD CONCLUSION OF NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS IF U.S. CAN ACHIEVE SATISFACTORY ACCORD THAT CAN 'STAND ON ITS OWN FEET.'" MARDER SAID "DESPITE EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO AVOID ANY SLOWDOWN IN SALT, IT WAS LEARNED THAT SOME ADMINISTRATION STRATEGISTS ARE NOW ADVOCATING ONLY 'INITIALING' NEW SALT ACCORD WITH SOVIET UNION IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCLUDED IN NEXT MONTH OR TWO. THIS WOULD BE STEP SIGNIFICANTLY SHORT OF FORMALLY SIGNING AN ACCORD AT LONG-PROJECTED SUMMIT MEETING IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN CARTER AND SOVIET LEADER LEONID I. BREZHNEV." MARDER SAID ALL AUTHORITATIVE ADMINISTRATION SOURCES NOW ARE REPORTED TO AGREE THAT RATIFICATION OF SALT TREATY IS PHYSICALLY, IF NOT POLITICALLY AS WELL, OUT OF QUESTION BEFORE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS." TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN SIGNING AND RATIFICATION, HE SAID, ONE APPROACH UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS TO START SALT THREE NEGOTIATIONS--AIMING FOR DEEPER CUTS IN NUCLEAR ARSENALS--IMMEDIATELY AFTER COMPLETION OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND WITHOUT WAITING FOR PROLONGED RATIFICATION TO BE COMPLETED. "AT LEAST SOME SOVIET SUPPORTERS HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG WITH THIS APPROACH--UP TO POINT," MARDER SAID. "SOVIET

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APPROACH, HOWEVER, IS TIED TO PINNING DOWN SALT TWO AGREE-
MENT VERY FIRMLY BEFORE STARTING NEW NEGOTIATIONS. AND
RIGHT NOW SOVIET SUSPICION ABOUT OVERALL CARTER ADMINIS-
TRATION INTENTIONS APPEAR TO BE RUNNING AT LEAST AS HIGH
AS AMERICAN SUSPICION ABOUT WHAT SOVIET UNION IS UP TO--IN
AFRICA, AND IN ITS PROSECUTION OF DISSIDENTS CHARGED WITH
VIOLATING SOVIET LAW FOR CHAMPIONING CARTER'S PROUDEST
CAUSE--HUMAN RIGHTS." REGARDING MONDALE'S STRONG SSOD
SPEECH, MARDER SAID U.S. OFFICIAL TOLD HIM ADMINISTRATION
DECIDED THAT SOVIET MILITARY EXPANSION "OUGHT TO BE PUT
OUT ON TABLE AND FRANKLY DISCUSSED."

3. HENRY BRADSHER OF WASHINGTON STAR SAID ACDA DIRECTOR

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WARNKE TOLD REPORTERS WEDNESDAY THAT AS SALT NEGOTIATIONS
GET DOWN TO LAST FEW ISSUES, "WE DON'T REALLY KNOW IF
SOVIET POSITION IS SO RIGID THAT WE CAN'T GET ANY PROGRESS"
ON SALT. THEREFORE, WARNKE SAID, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO
PREDICT HOW CLOSE SIGNING OF SALT TREATY IS. WARNKE SAID
THERE ARE "MAYBE SIX ISSUES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE" STILL
OUTSTANDING. THREE OF THEM DO NOT INVOLVE MAJOR DIFFER-
ENCES BETWEEN TWO SIDES BUT STILL REQUIRE DETAILED NEGO-
TIATIONS BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN GENEVA. "AT LEAST THREE
STILL REQUIRE POLITICAL DECISIONS," WARNKE SAID. HE
DECLARED THAT IT IS UP TO SOVIETS TO MAKE DECISIONS ON
BACKFIRE BOMBERS AND LIMITING NEW TYPES OF BALLISTIC
MI-SILES. "WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR SOVIET MOVE TOWARD OUR
POSITION," WARNKE SAID. ON THIRD ISSUE REQUIRING POLITICAL
DECISION, COUNTING HEAVY BOMBERS IN WEAPONS NUMBERS, THERE
IS NO BASIC SPLIT OF OPINION BETWEEN TWO SIDES, BRADSHER
SAID WARNKE TOLD REPORTERS. BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK
OUT SYSTEM OF LIMITATIONS THAT PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY FOR
PLANES TO CARRY CRUISE MISSILES. "WARNKE DECLINED TO
SPECULATE IN REPLY TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT PROBLEMS
OF CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OF ANY SALT TWO AGREEMENT
THAT MIGHT BE CONCLUDED," BRADSHER SAID. WARNKE, HE SAID,
AGREED THAT SALT AND DETENTE ARE CLOSELY LINKED IN MANY
SENATORS' MINDS. WARNKE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT "YOU
CAN VIEW SALT AS AN ASPECT OF DETENTE. IT HAS TO BE
LOOKED AT SEPARATELY, FROM STANDPOINT OF NATIONAL SECURITY,
AND ANYTHING ELSE IS TANGENTIAL."

4. WILLIAM BEECHER OF BOSTON GLOBE SAID CARTER ADMINIS-
TRATION, DESPITE STRONG RESERVATIONS BY JOINT CHIEFS OF
STAFF, IS PRESSING FOR FIVE-YEAR TREATY BANNING ALL NUCLEAR
WEAPONS TESTS. BEECHER REPORTED THAT "WELL-PLACED SOURCES"
SAY WARNKE PRESENTED DETAILED PROPOSAL TO SOVIET AND
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BRITISH NEGOTIATORS LAST WEEK IN GENEVA. "U.S. PROPOSAL SEEKS NOT ONLY TOTAL BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS BUT ALSO OF SO-CALLED PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. OTHER FEATURES INCLUDE INSTALLATION OF TAMPER-PROOF SEISMIC EXPLOSION DETECTORS IN SOVIET UNION AND U.S., AND RIGHT TO SEND INSPECTORS TO CHECK EARTH TREMORS SUSPECTED OF HAVING BEEN CAUSED BY NUCLEAR DETONATIONS RATHER THAN EARTHQUAKES." BEECHER SAID WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPARTMENT, AND ACDA OFFI-CIALS BELIEVE FIVE-YEAR BAN WOULD BE SHORT ENOUGH SO NO SERIOUS DETERIORATION SHOULD OCCUR IN U.S. STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. "AND TOTAL TEST BAN, RATHER THAN ONE INCLUDING SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS, SHOULD IMPROVE CHANCES OF PERSUADING NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA, BRAZIL, SOUTH AFRICA AND ARGENTINA TO FOREGO TESTING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES," BEECHER QUOTED SOURCES AS SAYING. VANCE

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